

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 SP-02 L-01 EB-03 SAM-01

PRS-01 /055 W

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R 141820Z APR 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1198

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2041

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PO

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON MEETINGS BETWEEN CANADIAN AMBASSADOR AND  
PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS IN LISBON

REF: USNATO 1744

1. CANADIAN DELEGATION HAS CIRCULATED TO SYG LUNS AND OTHER  
ALLIES (EXCEPT PORTUGAL) REPORTS OF MEETINGS BETWEEN CANADIAN  
AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL AND PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS. A FIRST  
MEETING (PARA 2) TOOK PLACE ON APRIL 1 WITH PORTUGUESE SECRETARY  
OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS CAMPINOS, IN HAS CAPACITY AS ACTING  
FOREGIN MINISTER. THE SECOND MEETING (PARA 3), ON APRIL 8, WAS  
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES. IN BOTH THESE MEETINGS, THE  
CANADIAN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED THE VIEWS OF HIS GOVERNMENT PER  
THE LETTER CIRCULATED ON MARCH 27 TO SYG LUNS AND SOME OF THE ALLIES  
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(REFTEL).

2. BEGIN TEXT

THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR BEGAN THE DISCUSSION  
BY EXPRESSING THE VIEWS OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AS  
ALREADY CONVEYED IN THE ATTACHMENT TO THE LETTER DATED  
MARCH 27 FROM THE CANADIAN DELEGATION.

IN REPLY MR. CAMPINOS STRESSED HIS SATISFACTION  
WITH THE CANADIAN INITIATIVE AND UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY OUR  
VIEWS TO THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER AS SOON AS HE  
RETURNED FROM HIS TRAVELS ABROAD.

CONCERNING PORTUGAL'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS,  
ESPECIALLY ITS PARTICIPATION IN NATO, THE ACTING FOREIGN  
MINISTER WAS CATEGORICAL: "PORTUGAL IS A PART OF EUROPE AND  
HAS NO INTENTION OF DOING ANYTHING THAT WOULD DISTURB THE  
BALANCE OF THAT CONTINENT, THAT IS TO SAY, OF THE WORLD".  
AT THE SAME TIME HE REALIZED THAT HIS COLLEAGUES TALKED  
OFTEN OF THE THIRD WORLD AND OF THE NECESSITY PROGRESSIVELY  
TO STRENGTHEN PORTUGAL'S TIES WITH IT, ALTHOUGH WITHOUT  
PREJUDICE TO TRADITIONAL ALLIANCES.

CONCERNING THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE, MR. CAMPINOS  
WAS OF THE OPINION THAT A BALANCE HAD BEEN MAINTAINED IN THE  
NEW CABINET AND HE WAS PLEASED THAT OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES  
WERE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL WITH "PATIENCE" IN  
THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE ELECTIONS. IN HIS VIEW THESE  
WOULD BE THE DECISIVE TEST AND HE THOUGHT THAT THE NEW  
MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR WAS A LOYAL MAN WHO WOULD ENDEAVOR  
TO ENSURE DEMOCRATIC BALLOTTING.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE ELECTIONS,  
ACCORDING TO THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, WILL BE TO ESTABLISH  
THE LEGITIMACY AND REPRESENTATIVENESS OF PORTUGAL'S POLITICAL  
PARTIES. HE FORESAW THAT THE SOCIALISTS, POPULAR DEMOCRATS  
AND THE CDS WOULD AMONG THEMSELVES ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN ONE-  
HALF OF THE VOTES CAST, WHILE THE COMMUNIST PARTY WOULD  
LIKELY OBTAIN 15 PERCENT. THIS IS WHY THE SOCIALISTS REMAINED  
IN THE COALITION IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THEIR INFLUENCE. WHILE  
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NO DOUBT SEVERAL POINTS OF VIEW MADE THEMSELVES FELT IN THE  
CABINET, " THE BATTLE HAD NOT BEEN LOST". AS PROOF OF THIS,  
SOARES HAD SUCCEEDED IN HAVING RETAINED IN THE HANDS OF THE  
SOCIALISTS VARIOUS IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT POSTS THAT THE  
COMMUNISTS WANTED TO HAVE THEM EXCLUDED FROM. IN A FEW  
WEEKS, IF THE SITUATION CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE, THE  
SOCIALISTS WOULD DECIDE WHETHER THEY WOULD HAVE TO "PASS  
TO THE OPPPOSITION AND EVEN ENGAGE IN RESISTENCE". THE  
ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO REGRETTED THE CURRENT ANARCHY  
AND PRE-ELECTORAL INTERLUDE. FINALLY MR. CAMPINOS STATED  
THAT HIS PARTY OPPOSED THE BANNING WITHOUT DUE PROCESS  
OF THE THREE POLITICAL PARTIES BUT THIS DECISION HAD BEEN  
TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION WITHOUT CONSULTATION

WITH MINISTERS. HE WAS ALSO DISTURBED AT THE NUMBER OF  
ILLEGAL ARRESTS WHICH WERE NOT FOLLOWED BY CHARGES AND TRIAL.

COMMENT:

THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR IN LISBON HAS CAUTIONED  
THAT MR. CAMPINOS' VIEWS SHOULD PERHAPS BE SEEN MORE IN  
LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT HE WAS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF A  
MODERATE POLITICAL PARTY, RATHER THAN AS A SPOKESMAN FOR A  
GOVERNMENT IN WHICH ARE REFLECTED SEVERAL TENDENCIES OR  
CONFLICTING VIEWS. HOWEVER THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER WAS  
CONVINCED THAT TIME WAS ON THE SIDE OF THE MODERATES AND  
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS FAR FROM BEING TAKEN OVER BY  
MILITANT MARXISTS.

END TEXT.

3. BEGIN TEXT

THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR BEGAN THE DISCUSSION  
BY EXPRESSING THE VIEWS OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AS  
CONVEYED IN THE ATTACHMENT TO THE LETTER DATED MARCH 27  
FROM THE CANADIAN DELEGATION. THE ENSUING DISCUSSION THEN  
CENTERED ON PORTUGAL'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS, THE  
FORTHCOMING ELECTION AND THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES  
MOVEMENT, AND THE CURRENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMME.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS  
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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 SP-02 L-01 EB-03 SAM-01

PRS-01 /055 W  
----- 006368

R 141820Z APR 75  
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THE MINISTER WAS CONVINCED OF THE NECESSITY FOR PORTUGAL TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH NATO. "OUR PAST AND OUR INTERESTS LEAN ON US TOWARD THE WESTERN WORLD". HOWEVER PORTUGAL INTENDED TO OPEN OTHER AVENUES, NOTABLY TO MAINTAIN "PRIVILEGED RELATIONS WITH AFRICA, ESPECIALLY PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICA". THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR THEN NOTED THAT THE PORTUGUESE PRESS SEEMED TO BE GIVING PUBLICITY ONLY TO THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, TO WHICH THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY UNHAPPY WITH THESE NEWSPAPERS, TERMING THEM BOOKS OF COMMUNIST GROUPS THAT MISUNDERSTOOD THE TERM "LIBERTY".

THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS AND THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT

ACCORDING TO MR. ANTUNES THE MILITARY WAS PLAYING  
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A PREPONDERANT ROLE AT PRESENT BECAUSE ONLY THE ARMY WAS CAPABLE OF AVOIDING A SITUATION OF ANARCHY. NO POLITICAL PARTY COULD ASSURE STABILITY, WHICH IN TURN REQUIRED THE TEMPORARY INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF THREE TO FIVE YEARS. THE MINISTER WAS CATEGORICAL IN DENYING THAT THE LATTER WAS TIED WITH THE COMMUNISTS SINCE IT DID NOT FAVOUR ANY POLITICAL PARTY BUT RATHER RECOGNIZED ALL DEMOCRATIC GROUPS, THAT IS TO SAY, "OF THE LEFT". FINALLY HE STATED "WE ARE NOT YET READY FOR DEMOCRACY OF THE BRITISH TYPE".

CURRENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAMME

THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER APPEARED TO BE AMBARRASSED IN REACTION TO A QUESTION FROM THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ON THIS SUBJECT. DESPITE THE NATIONALIZATIONS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE AFTER MARCH 11, THE MAIN LINES OF THE PROGRAMME WERE SAID NOT TO HAVE CHANGED, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT WHICH ANTUNES STATED, PORTUGAL NEEDED VERY MUCH. HE ALSO SAID A CODE REGULATING SUCH INVESTMENTS WILL PUBLISHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN ORDER TO REASSURE FOREIGN INDUSTRIAL AND INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

END TEXT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 18 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975NATO02041  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 XGDS-1  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NATO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197504101/abbrzjk.tel  
**Line Count:** 218  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** n/a  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** USNATO 1744  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTS ON MEETINGS BETWEEN CANADIAN AMBASSADOR AND PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, NATO, PO  
**To:** STATE INFO BONN  
BRUSSELS  
DUBLIN  
LISBON  
LONDON  
OTTAWA

IN LISBON

PARIS

ROME

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006